

## **ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIME WORKING GROUP ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (WG on TIP)**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **Background**

1. At the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit (November 2004), Member Countries adopted the *ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children*. This Declaration reaffirmed the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP), particularly concerning programme area 3.1.3.3 of the Vientiane Action Programme (Strengthen Regional Collaboration in Programmes to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children), and further committed ASEAN members to a number of specific actions including the establishment of a regional focal network; exchange of information and views between ASEAN Member Countries; strengthened cooperation between immigration/law enforcement authorities; improved victim identification and protection procedures; stronger criminal justice responses; and more effective regional and international cooperation.
2. At the 4<sup>th</sup> SOMTC held in Bandar Sri Begarwan in 2004, Lead-shepherds for each area of transnational crime were delegated on voluntary basis. Each Lead-shepherd were to develop practical Work Programme for responsible areas. Furthermore, the consensus was reached at the 5<sup>th</sup> SOMTC held in Siam Reap in June 2005 to prioritise the areas of transnational crime in order; (1) terrorism; (2) illicit drug trafficking; (3) trafficking in persons; and (4) money laundering, while continuing to pursue cooperation in combating other areas of transnational crime
3. Several ASEAN bodies have been involved in the issue of the TIP, namely, DGICM, ASLOM and the ASEAN Women's Committee(AWC). .At the 6<sup>th</sup> SOMTC in June 2006 in Bali, an *ad-hoc* working group on TIP adopted a set of recommendations, which included a recommendation to work with the other relevant ASEAN regional bodies in formulating a Work Plan to implement the *ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children*. The recommendations were endorsed by the 6<sup>th</sup> SOMTC and the Meeting agreed to establish an ASEAN Ad-Hoc Inter-agency Working Group to implement the above-mentioned recommendation.
4. A draft of the Work Plan was finalized by the Ad-Hoc Inter-agency Working Group at its meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 25 June 2007. It was submitted to and endorsed by the SOMTC at its meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 27 June 2007. Under Action Line 1.1. the Work Plan establishes a regional focal network under SOMTC in the form of a permanent Working Group on Trafficking in Persons.

### **Scope of Work of the WG on TIP**

5. The main objective of the Working Group, as set out in the *Work Plan to Implement the ASEAN Declaration on Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children*, is to monitor implementation of that Work Plan. This will include review of draft documents, reports, studies and training curricula as well as coordination of AMC inputs into various initiatives set out in the Work plan. Effective from July 2011, the Working Group will also monitor, and where appropriate, give directions on the activities of the Heads of Specialist Anti-Trafficking Units (HSU), which will function in accordance with the policies established by the SOMTC WG on TIP.

6. The Work Plan further notes the following additional objectives of the Working Group:

- To facilitate exchange of information and experiences on the TIP issue amongst AMCs including information on: trafficking flows and trends; measures to protect the integrity of passports, official travel documents, identity and other official travel documents from fraud; developments in national responses including laws, and emerging good practices from within and outside the region.
- To consider ways and means to strengthen regional and international cooperation to prevent and combat TIP.
- To facilitate donor coordination and cooperation on projects within the ASEAN region in relation to TIP.

### **Structure of the WG on TIP**

7. The WG on TIP comprises Senior Officials of ASEAN Member Countries involved in responding to Trafficking in Persons. Each AMS is responsible for determining the composition of its delegation to the Working Group meetings. The delegation could include members representing different areas of the TIP response (law enforcement, prosecution, victim support, repatriation and reintegration). Members of the Working Group will consult with relevant agencies in their home countries on matters relating to TIP and the Work Plan to implement the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children.

8. Progress and outcomes of the WG on TIP will be reported by the Chair of the WG on TIP to SOMTC.

9. With regards to the appointment of the Chairmanship of the WG on TIP, the regular Working Group will be held back-to-back with annual SOMTC and will

be hosted by Country chairing the SOMTC. The regular Working Group will be chaired by the Lead Shepherd. Additional Working Group session will be proposed by any Member Country through the Lead Shepherd or the ASEAN Secretariat and will be co-chaired by the host and Lead Shepherd.

### **Timeframe and Work Schedule**

10. The WG on TIP shall meet at least once a year back to back with SOMTC and additionally as necessary. A regular meeting of the Working Group on TIP will be held back-to-back with the annual SOMTC. Additional Working Group Meeting can be proposed by any AMS through ASEC or the Lead Shepherd.

### **Budget and Management**

11. The convening of WG on TIP will be supported by the Host/Chair. Each delegation shall cover their own travel and accommodation costs while the host will cover expenses for the venue and meeting arrangements including ASEAN hospitality.

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